

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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MEDICAL PROGRESS.

New Jersey Medical Society.—This venerable society held its eighty-sixth annual meeting in the city of Trenton, on the 27th of January last. Dr. J. H. Phillips, the President, delivered an address on "The Medical History of the Country," for which a vote of thanks was ordered, and a copy requested for publication.

Dr. Paul, Chairman of Standing Committee, presented the Annual Report, which was accepted.

The several scientific committees appointed at the last meeting reported, and the Society took action as follows:—

First committee, by Dr. Parrish, presented a report on the chemical action of the kidneys, which was accepted, and the subject, by request of the committee, referred back to the same committee, for further investigation, Dr. D. B. Trimble being appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Haines.

Second committee submitted a partial report, which was referred back to same committee. At the request of Dr. L. A. Smith, Dr. A. Coles was appointed chairman in his stead.

Third committee, made report by Dr. J. B. Coleman, which was accepted, and the subject referred back to the same committee.

Fourth committee, reported no action. Dr. Paul, at his request, was excused from acting, and J. H. Thompson, of Salem, substituted in his place, Dr. Gibbon being appointed chairman.

The following were appointed officers for the ensuing year:—

President.—O. H. Taylor, Camden.

First Vice-President.—J. Paul, Trenton.

Second Vice-President.—S. Lilly, Lambertville.

Third Vice-President.—A. B. Dayton, Middletown.

Corresponding Secretary.—J. Parrish, Burlington.

Published Monthly by BLANCHARD & LEA, Philadelphia, at One Dollar a-year, and sent GRATUITOUSLY to all subscribers of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," who remit the Annual Subscription, Five Dollars, in advance.

⚠ In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.

This should pay postage as a newspaper. Each number of the "Medical News and Library" weighs between one and two ounces. Subscribers will therefore, under the new postage law, pay in advance for each quarter as follows:—

For any distance under 50 miles . . .	1½ cts. per quarter.
do. do. between 50 and 300 . . .	2½ " "
do. do. do. 300 and 1000 . . .	3¼ " "
do. do. do. 1000 and 2000 . . .	5 " "

Recording Secretary.—W. Pierson, Orange.

Treasurer.—J. S. English, Manalapan.

After the transaction of various other matters of business the Society adjourned to meet at Trenton, at eleven o'clock, on the fourth Tuesday of January next.

QUACKS AND QUACKERY.

Quack Advertisements.—[We copy the following excellent article from a late number of the *London Journal of Medicine*.]

It is grievous to see members of the medical profession, not only admitting into their families newspapers containing obscene and swindling quack advertisements, but even sending their books to be reviewed by journals notorious for these disgraceful publications. We observe with sorrow that a reputable physician allows his really good work to be advertised on the front page of a weekly medical journal, with a laudatory extract from an evening paper, a profitable branch of whose business it is to set forth the claims of the Manly Vigour scoundrels. This laxity ought not to prevail; and, as medical journalists, we cannot pass it by in silence.

The *Critic* of January 1, publishes the following letter from Dr. Cormack. The determination of the editor, if carried out, may enable the *Critic* to supply the want which has been long felt, of a literary journal which could be introduced into families, without injuring morals and destroying health by the nastiness, quackeries, and swindling baits of its advertising columns.

To the Editor of the Critic.

"Sir: From the enlightened views and excellent tone which pervade your paper, I feel confident that you will not be inattentive to a remonstrance which I now make against *The Critic* being rendered instrumental in fleecing your incautious readers by the luring advertisements of quacks. The admirable and comprehensive summary which you give, of all that is passing in the literary and scientific world, makes your paper an invaluable medium of family instruction; and it cannot be a matter of indifference to you that, from any oversight in the commercial department, your work should sometimes be made the medium of presenting to the public the cheating baits of impudent empirics. I know that you do not desire to give place in your columns to such announcements; for some time ago,

when I stated that Holloway's advertisements were inconsistent with the character of a high-toned literary and scientific journal, you not only listened to my expostulation, but took such measures as prevented their being again inserted. I wish that cheating advertisements of pills, ointments, and nasty books, were regarded by members of the medical profession, and by fathers of families, with the abhorrence which they deserve; but so long as some London, and many provincial newspapers, teeming with the worst and most indelicate matter of this kind, are allowed to lie on the drawing-room tables of our gentry, the conductors of these papers are certain not to refuse them a place. It is, therefore, because I believe *The Critic* to belong to a higher class of periodicals, that I now address you; and, as illustrations are often better than abstract arguments, I subjoin for your information a brief statement.

"The following advertisement appeared in *The Critic* :—

"'A speedy cure for Stone and Gravel will be sent to any person by enclosing thirteen stamps to Thomas Wilkinson, Land Agent, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.'

"A patient of mine, who is an intelligent gentleman, and one of your subscribers, sent thirteen stamps to Thomas Wilkinson, and received the following reply :—

"'Dear Sir: Your 13 stamps are recd, and beg to say Instead of a Dose of Egyptian Drops I will send the recipe for 36 stamps more and full directions how to Mix and Take it. Drops will dissolve the Stone and bring it away in sand quite easy, speedy cure is certain your resp'y, Thomas Wilkinson, Land Agent.'

"This reply so much incensed my patient, that he at once intimated to Mr. Wilkinson that he would publicly expose him, if he did not give the 'speedy cure' in an available form; whereupon, in reply, the following evasive epistle was received, which I may state has not induced the invalid to discontinue appropriate treatment :—

"'Dear Sir: Yours is recd. recipe returned. 1 oz. Barbadoes Tar, 1 oz. Balsom Sulphur, 1 oz. Linseed Oil, 1 do. Spirits Turpentine. On receiving the stamps full Directions will be returned. Yours resp'y Thomas Wilkinson, Land Agent.'

"I need hardly add, that the recipe is nonsense; and even were it a good prescription,

the want of directions for its use would render it valueless to a patient. The offer of a cure, therefore, for thirteen stamps, cannot arise from a delusion on the part of the 'land-agent' as to the efficacy of his nostrum; and is simply a clever method of obtaining money—not certainly for value received. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

"JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M. D.,
"ESSEX HOUSE, Putney, Dec. 23, 1851."

We thank Dr. Cormack for his communication. Assuredly, the advertisements of Mr. Wilkinson shall not again appear; and, as regards all advertisements, vigilance as to their character shall be exerted.—ED. CRITIC.

The Patent Medicine Hospital.—The subjoined advertisement is earnestly recommended to the attention of the nobility, gentry, and clergy who patronize the homœopathic hospital, and homœopathy and homœopaths at large; and who might just as well patronize a hospital conducted on the principles of patent medicines:—

The philanthropic gentlemen who wish to purchase Dr. G—'s Miraculous Recipe (and make a fortune by establishing the health of the people), can be introduced to hundreds, who, after being given up for death by their medical attendants, are now one, two, three, and four stones heavier, although physicked powerfully every day during their being cured, and using from ten to forty pills each dose. For particulars apply to Dr. G— and Sons, at — Street, Glasgow, where they give free advice to their patients.

Messrs. N—, G—, agents for Edinburgh; more of whom are wanted at home and abroad.

Here is a chance for the "philanthropic gentlemen" and ladies, to whom we appeal. Let them not pooh-pooh us with the put-off that Dr. G— is a quack. What right have they to call him so? Have they ever tested the powers of his "Miraculous Recipe?" Was not Galileo scouted and persecuted, from prejudice, without investigation? Ditto Columbus? &c. &c. If infinitesimal globules are not too difficult for their deglutition, why should they refuse to swallow G—'s pills—ay, by forties at a dose? Dr. G—'s pretensions may be inconsistent with homœopathy. But then, homœopathy

is inconsistent with physiological, pathological, therapeutical, and pharmaceutical facts. If *Punch* is wrong in stating this, the nobility, gentry, and clergy above alluded to, do not know that he is not right. They have never studied the laws of health and disease. What do these duchesses and other persons of quality of either gender know about the science of medicine? Yet they think no geese of themselves for forming an opinion on that subject, into which they have not inquired, in opposition to the judgment of those who have made its study the business of their lives. Personal recovery, after recourse to an alleged remedy, without reference to the question of *post hoc or propter hoc*, is sufficient for them. Then, why not try G—'s pills? They will not take upon themselves more decidedly than they do at present to contradict the Colleges of both Physicians and Surgeons; both of which bodies, by patronizing homœopathy, they virtually declare themselves to regard as composed of blockheads or impostors. By all means, then, let them do the same justice to Dr. G— that they do to Dr. Globules, and that the scientific and enlightened Earl of Holloway did to Professor Aldborough.—*Punch*, January 24, 1852.

State of Medical Science and of the Medical Profession in America.—[The following are the introductory remarks to a complimentary notice of the Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, in the *London Journal of Medicine*, for February, 1852.]

The great American Republic is claimed exultingly by Professor HENDERSON as the land of Homœopathy; and, as is well known, from that territory another Professor levies a large revenue for his pills and ointment. There too, in her "office" at New York, flourishes, as a consulting physician, Elizabeth Blackwell, M. D., "that unwomanly lady;"* and there, in truth, quackery is rampant in its most subtle as well as in its grossest forms. There, till lately, the medical profession was in a chaotic state, and the line between regular and irregular practitioners was ill-defined; but a better era has now commenced. A vast effort is being made throughout the Union to raise the standard of medical character and medical education; and a sound ethical spirit is

* See subsequent article.

everywhere manifesting itself. In the volume of Transactions now before us, there is manifested a noble and uncompromising determination on the part of an organized body of scientific practitioners to separate themselves from even the semblance of an alliance with urine-test doctors, pow-wows, homœopaths, and other charlatans, who cluster like voracious parasites around rational medicine. Quackery must, we admit, have its numerous votaries, so long as the human mind has its present constitution; but still, it is not the less imperative upon members of our liberal profession to repudiate dangerous and dishonest practitioners. This act is due to themselves, due to the community, and due to truth; and it is one which cannot honestly or honourably be left unperformed upon the plea that notoriety gives currency to error; for error ought at all hazards to be disclaimed, and moreover, experience teaches us, that no dangerous or false doctrine can be effectually destroyed, until it has acquired a sufficient importance with the public to cause its exposure to be listened to. This assertion may to some appear paradoxical; but, nevertheless, it is strictly in accordance with truth to state that the rapid spread of any heresy or abuse is a good preparative for its downfall, and is often actually necessary for its effectual suppression. Quackery in America having attained its climax, as is manifested by its hideous aspect and wide-spread influence, is now, it would appear, in a condition to be effectually exposed and destroyed.

Medical Bloomerism.—That “unwomanly lady,” ELIZABETH BLACKWELL, M.D., is thus depicted by a contemporary in an article entitled MEDICAL BLOOMERISM: “Everybody who reads *Punch* and the newspapers, has learned that some crazy Transatlantic women have been vainly endeavouring to induce the British fair to assume half the dress and many of the most arduous duties of the other sex. A little modification of the petticoat and corset is, I grant, very much needed; but a rational reformation in female dress can never be brought about by such apostles as are now, or have lately been, preaching the doctrines of the Bloomer crusade. Much less can such individuals do aught for the other cause which they pretend to espouse, ‘the rights of women.’ It is true that in the eye of God, as revealed to us in his word, ‘the

rights,’ and the eternal destiny of both sexes, are the same; but it is as clearly told to us in the Bible, as it is emphatically declared by the physical structure of our race, that, when in this world, the man and the woman has each a distinct mission—that the one is a help meet and suitable for the other, and that the proper discharge of the duties of life requires each to perform separate parts. The larger bones, the stronger muscles, the sterner mind, and the ruder aspect, were, not without a wise design, conferred on one sex, and withheld from the other, whose very charms, and powers of doing good, depend in no small degree upon the manner and proportion in which are impressed characteristics the opposite of those enumerated. Were our wives and our daughters to desert their nurseries, their domestic parlours, and their drawing-rooms for military colleges, inns of law, dissecting-rooms, and halls of science, the profession of arms, of law, and of medicine might derive some talented recruits; but every woman so withdrawn from the household sphere would create a disastrous void at home; and if it were possible—which, thank God it is not—for such an insane fashion extensively to prevail, our children would grow up degenerate and untamed—a generation selfish, devilish, and savage. So it ever has been when want, ambition, or love of lucre has induced mothers to surrender their humanizing dominion at home. Abundant examples might be drawn from our cotton-spinning towns, and our mining districts—as well from the tabernacles of the poor, as from the gorgeous saloons of London or Parisian folly.

“If there be truth in these remarks, it cannot be too deeply regretted that some distinguished members of the medical profession bestowed marked attention upon that famous American lady, Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D., during her recent visit to the hospitals and medical Museums of London and Paris. It might be a curious, but it was an odious spectacle, to see that unwomanly lady attending operations at our hospitals, and exploring cabinets of pathology with scientific gusto. The evil of her reception is now being felt; for this Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, graduate in medicine of an American University, has returned to her native country, and is now exulting through the press at the kindness which she met with from this and the other medical professor of London and Paris.

"I know not the length of Dr. Blackwell's petticoats; but her political and social creed is of the ultra-Bloomer or Social school. In a report of the proceedings which took place at a 'Convention of Women' recently held on the other side of the Atlantic, I find it stated that Lucretia Mott, of Philadelphia, and ELIZABETH BLACKWELL, M. D., of New York, were appointed as a 'committee to correspond with Jeane Deroin and Pauline Roland, of Paris, and to express to them the interest of this Convention in the present position of France.' The French women named, are, or lately were, prisoners in the St. Lazare, of Paris, for political offences. Jeane Deroin was editor of a Socialist paper called *The Voice of Women*. Such are the characters with whom the lady-doctor, lately wondered at in London, is identified. In the New York newspapers it is advertised, that 'Elizabeth Blackwell, M. D., has returned from Europe and opened an office in New York:' which means, that she has commenced consulting practice as a physician in that city. From the *Philadelphia Medical Examiner*, it appears that the indelicacy of young men and young women attending together the same classes and dissecting-rooms is complained of; and that, as it is supposed that the female sex are likely, ere long, to enlist themselves in large numbers under the banners of Esculapius, a medical school exclusively for women is now being established in Philadelphia. Is not civilization in its dotage?"—*CELSUS*, in *Critic* of 15th Jan., 1852.

Clerical and Judicial Encouragement to Quackery.—We see it stated in the daily papers that, at the fourth annual commencement of the Homœopathic College of Pennsylvania, the opening prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. EVANS; the benediction pronounced by the Rev. Mr. REMINGTON; and the degrees conferred by the Hon. A. V. PARSONS, President of the College.

Expulsion of Homœopaths from the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society.—At a meeting of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society, on the 3d of Dec. last, the following persons, publicly professing homœopathy, were deleted from the list of members: Prof. Henderson, of Edinburgh, Dr. McDonald, of St. Andrews, Dr. McLeod, of Ben Rhydding, and Dr. Ransford, of York.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Will's Hospital.—Number of cases treated from Oct. 1, 1851, to Jan. 1, 1852.

SERVICE OF DR. HAYS.

Granular lids	-	-	-	-	45
Acute conjunctivitis	-	-	-	-	21
Chronic do.	-	-	-	-	22
Catarrhal ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	1
Pustular do.	-	-	-	-	7
Scrofulous do.	-	-	-	-	15
Purulent do.	-	-	-	-	1
Polypus of the conjunctiva	-	-	-	-	1
Ecchymosis of do.	-	-	-	-	1
Scleritis	-	-	-	-	3
Corneitis	-	-	-	-	11
Opacity of the cornea	-	-	-	-	17
Ulcer of do.	-	-	-	-	6
Wound of do.	-	-	-	-	3
Staphyloma	-	-	-	-	3
Foreign body in the cornea	-	-	-	-	3
Ophthalmia tarsi	-	-	-	-	40
Tumors of the lids	-	-	-	-	2
Inflammation of the lids	-	-	-	-	2
Eutropian	-	-	-	-	4
Ectropion	-	-	-	-	1
Acute iritis	-	-	-	-	7
Chronic iritis	-	-	-	-	4
Prolapse of iris	-	-	-	-	2
Closure of the pupil	-	-	-	-	2
Inflammation of the lachrymal sac	-	-	-	-	5
Single mucocele	-	-	-	-	2
Double do.	-	-	-	-	1
Fistula lachrymalis	-	-	-	-	1
Cataract	-	-	-	-	14
Hypopion	-	-	-	-	1
Amaurosis	-	-	-	-	35
Ophthalmitis	-	-	-	-	3
Injury of the eye	-	-	-	-	7
Foreign body in the ball of the eye	-	-	-	-	1
Inflammation of the hip-joint	-	-	-	-	2

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JAMES S. GREEN, M. D.,

Resident Physician.

March 15, 1852.

American Medical Association.—At a meeting of the Philadelphia College of Physicians held March 2, 1852, the following were duly elected Delegates to the American Medical Association: George B. Wood, Isaac Hays, G. Emerson, Jno. Rodman Paul, Alfred Stillé, Rene La Roche, Francis West, John Neill, Caspar Wistar, W. J. W. Ruschenberger, John D.

Griscorn, Samuel L. Hollingsworth, Francis G. Smith, John B. Tuft, and Anthony E. Stocker.

Medical Institution of Yale College.—We learn with pleasure that Dr. WORTHINGTON HOOKER, of Norwich, has been appointed to the chair of Theory and Practice of Physic in this school, in place of Dr. Eli Ives, transferred to the chair of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. Dr. Hooker is a gentleman of highly cultivated mind, of sound judgment, of very enlightened views, and his appointment will add strength to the school.

Medical Students, Session 1851-52.

Massachusetts Medical College,	-	126
Medical Department Univ. of La.,	-	186
Jefferson Medical College,	-	506
Starling Medical College,	-	146
Medical College of Ohio,	-	151

Medical Graduates in 1852.

University of Buffalo,	-	20
Jefferson Medical College,	-	228
University of the City of New York,	-	98
Starling Medical College,	-	35
College of Phys. and Surgeons, N. Y.,	-	59
Medical College of Ohio,	-	44

Pleasures of Editorship.—Dr. A. HALL, Editor of the *British-American Medical and Physiological Journal*, has issued a circular announcing the discontinuance of his journal, and giving the reasons for it. He states that the expenses thus far of the publication of the journal have exceeded the receipts, £156 14s. 7d., and that he has no idea of further augmenting this deficit.

Dr. Howard, the Editor of the *Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal*, in his number for March, of the present year, states: "Since the issue of our January number we have been under the necessity of assuming the pecuniary responsibilities of this journal, a debt for publishing to the amount of \$950, \$300 of which (not being due until July next) came upon the owner, which had to be paid or allow our off-spring to give up the ghost. This we would not stand, so we forked over the amount."

Homœopathy: An Examination of its Doctrines and Evidences. By WORTHINGTON HOOKER, M. D.—This well written dis-

sertation, to which was awarded the Fiske Fund Prize of the Rhode Island Medical Society, has been published by Charles Schribner, 145 Nassau St., New York. It has been put up neatly in paper covers, so that it may be sent by mail to physicians in the country who wish to obtain it. By enclosing one dollar to the publisher, two copies will be sent postage free; or one copy may be obtained by sending fifty cents in postage stamps. The work deserves and should obtain a wide circulation.

Instruction in Medical Botany and Practical Chemistry and Pharmacy.—Dr. ALFRED L. KENNEDY announces a course of lectures on Medical Botany, including the structure and classification of plants, to commence on the 21st of April, at 4 P. M., and to continue semi-weekly for two months.

Also a course on Analytic Chemistry, in connection with Laboratory Practice, to be delivered semi weekly during the months of April, May, and June, 1852.

A class in compounding and putting up prescriptions, and other operations of extemporaneous Pharmacy, will be formed during the season.

The lecture-room and laboratory are in Boyd's Avenue, running east from Tenth St., just below Market St.

Private Institution for Feeble minded Children.—We take great pleasure in announcing that Mr. JAS. B. RICHARDS, a gentleman who brings the strongest testimonials as to his qualifications, has just opened in Philadelphia, a school for children of *slow mental development*, who cannot be taught by the ordinary methods.

In Europe, Mr. R. became familiar with the operations of similar institutions, some of which had been in progress for nearly ten years, and have been instrumental in rescuing many from a state of hopeless idiocy. Since then, he has had an experience of more than three years in teaching and training this class of unfortunates in the Massachusetts State Experimental School.

Mr. Richards's office is over Mr. Dillwyn Parrish's drug store, north-west corner of Arch and 8th Street, where he can be found between the hours of 11 A. M., and 1 P. M.

We can confidently recommend this institution to those who have feeble minded children, and also to those who are disposed

to promote this most useful and philanthropic project of Mr. Richards.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Albuminous Urine.—Some new opinions on the significance of albumen in the urine have been lately advanced by M. Robin. M. Robin supposes that in the state of health the albumen is destroyed, or, to use the author's term, "burnt" in the blood, and the nitrogenous products of the process are urea and uric acid. Anything which can interrupt this combustion, produces the appearance in the urine of that albumen which should have been converted into urea and uric acid. The albumen then appears in the urine at the expense of these latter bodies. In pursuing this idea, M. Robin states, that in croup, in extreme ascites, in capillary bronchitis and emphysema, producing great dyspnoea; in phthisis, when there is great embarrassment of breathing, and especially when there is pneumonia; in cyanosis, and in heart disease, producing a permanent degree of semi-asphyxia, albumen appears in the urine in consequence of the impediment to its combustion in the lungs.

In some other diseases the same fact is said to be observed; thus, in diseases of the nervous centres, producing lowering of temperature, and which arises from lessened pulmonary changes, albumen appears. In diabetes, and in those conditions of the nervous system in which there is a profound prostration; in cases in which the surface of the body is exposed to excessive cold, albumen also appears in the urine. In some pregnancies, when the lungs are compressed, the albumen also remains undestroyed, and consequently appears in the urine. In all these cases, there is one common antecedent, viz., incomplete action of the lungs, and one universal symptom, viz., albumen in the urine.

Bright's disease is supposed to be the consequence of any of these states when sufficiently long continued. M. Robin states that the urea is diminished in albuminous urine in the following cases; in phthisis, in diseases of the encephalon and cord, in general acute bronchitis, with great dyspnoea, and in Bright's disease.—*L'Union Méd.*

Axillary Aneurism; Ligature of Subclavian Artery.—Mr. B. Holt recently dis-

charged from his ward, in Westminster Hospital, a patient who was admitted several months ago with axillary aneurism. The case had been sent from the country, with some doubts concerning the nature of the disease. Mr. Holt tied the subclavian artery on the right side, which measure caused the pulsations to cease, though the fluidity of the contents of the sac persisted for several months. Consolidation and absorption at length ensued, and the patient has just been discharged with the full use of his arm, and the almost complete disappearance of the tumour.

Easy Delivery.—M. GUILLOT, in a clinical lecture, related the following circumstance:—

"Admiral Berard, when stationed at Cape Horn, observed a woman fishing on the border of the sea, with the water reaching to the waist. All at once she appeared in violent pain, and after some minutes she was observed to stoop and pick something out of the water. It was a dead child, which she took by the foot and pitched far out into the sea. Then she recommenced fishing. M. Berard, on the following day, saw her resume her fishing as if nothing had happened."—*L'Union Méd.*

Quarantine Laws and Yellow Fever.—Report of MM. Magendie, Louis, and Londe (Reporter), to the French National Academy of Medicine, on a work by JAMES GILLKREST, Esq., M.D., &c., Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, entitled, "Is yellow fever contagious or not?"

The history of yellow fever is treated by Dr. Gillkrest with an erudition which it would be difficult to find equally complete elsewhere. After mentioning the observers and monographists who have described yellow fever, beginning with Hippocrates (who speaks of a fever characterized by yellowness of skin, and black vomit), Dr. Gillkrest arrives at these conclusions:—

1. That the yellow fever of America, and that observed in the south-west of Europe, especially in Spain, are identical; an identity acknowledged by all authors, with the exception perhaps of our colleague M. Rochoux.

2. That this disease existed in the Antilles before 1793, and in the Spanish Peninsula before 1764.

Dr. Gillkrest next relates a great number of facts establishing:—

1. That yellow fever, or at least its pathognomonic symptoms, have shown themselves at very remote points of the globe, and that they appear to be then developed uniformly under accidental or local conditions, so strongly marked as to exclude all idea of importation, in the true meaning of that word.

2. That sporadic cases of yellow fever present themselves, in ordinary years, in the localities where this disease has prevailed in an epidemic form. Dr. Gillkrest considers that this second inference is established by a certificate by the medical officers, who, on the 13th of April, 1829, at Gibraltar, declared—after having read with the greatest care thirty-nine cases extracted from the records of the civil hospital—that the symptoms detailed in these cases were perfectly identical with those observed in the epidemic which prevailed in that garrison in the latter part of the year 1828.

Having established these fundamental points, Dr. Gillkrest arrives at the grand question, contagion.

The author establishes, by numerous well-selected and incontrovertible proofs, that yellow fever is not contagious under any circumstances, not even in the case of crowding, in this disease, whether of the dead or of the living; that the removal of the individual from the influence of the local causes which produce this affection is the fittest means of preventing its extension; and, lastly, that the cordons, called sanitary, and quarantine measures, far from arresting yellow fever, on the contrary, favour its extension, by confining the population within the influence of the local causes which give it birth.

Such is the work on which we have to report. Dr. Gillkrest, in services which crown him with honour, and which on more than one occasion have been extended to our fellow-countrymen, brings to bear upon the question of contagion in yellow fever (a question so intimately connected with the most important interests of mankind), the fruits of a long experience, as was done formerly by our intrepid and ever to be regretted Chervin.

This communication of Dr. Gillkrest, which has already received the full approval of the General Board of Health in London, has reached us most opportunely at the moment when a Congress is assembled to suggest, no doubt, important modifications in

our sanitary laws; consequently, gentlemen, your Committee has the honour to propose:—

1. To thank Dr. Gillkrest for his interesting communication.

2. To transmit his work to the Minister of Commerce, in order that, in conjunction with the numerous documents on this subject, already in possession of the administration, it may aid in placing beyond a doubt the inutility of quarantine, as applied to arrivals from countries where yellow fever prevails.

These resolutions were put to the vote, and adopted—*Bulletin of the National Academy of Medicine*, vol. xvii., No 2. 31 Oct., 1851. III., p. 39.

Military Medical Honours.—At the dinner of the Royal College of Surgeons, Feb. 14, 1852, General Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS, Bart., K.C.B., in acknowledgment of a toast, made the following remarks:—

"If indeed he (Sir Howard) could flatter himself that he had contributed, in any degree, to obtain for the medical officers of the army and navy, that act of justice and of consideration which conferred upon them those badges of distinction to which, in common with every other description of persons who serve on the battle-field, they are so justly entitled, and, in their peculiar calling, so highly deserving, Sir Howard had been amply rewarded by seeing at length a general, though somewhat tardy concession of their rightful claims; and he (Sir Howard) received the acknowledgments made by the chairman as to his (Sir Howard's) co-operation, with the greatest satisfaction. It appeared, however, to him (Sir Howard) that more remains to be done. But in touching upon this delicate subject, all he (Sir Howard) would permit himself to say was, that, considering those badges of military distinction which had been so well earned by medical officers in battle, as titles to the acquisition of honorary insignia of a high order, as in other classes of the naval and military professions, it might be hoped that a more extensive distribution of those honorary distinctions might hereafter be conferred on medical officers, in a manner better calculated to mark the sense entertained of the value and importance of their services, and the consideration in which, as a class, they are held."